

Town of Lebanon Rails to Trails Committee

Monday March 14, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Donna Koenig, Mary Withey, Naomi Davidson, Nusie Halpine, Bruce Sievers, Mark Fitton, Art Wallace

Alternate: Walter Miller (Peter Gandelman)

Members absent: Michael Lambert and Peter Gandelman

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order: 6:29 PM

1.2 Welcome to guests: None present

1.3 Reading and acceptance of the Minutes from September 14, 2015:

Mary made a motion that the minutes of September 14, 2015 be accepted as read. Art seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Condition of the trail:

The condition of the trail is fairly good. Some trees and branches still need to be removed at the sides and in the ditches of the trail. There has been quite a bit of ATV, dirt bike use on section 1.

Several committee members applied a preservative coating on the pavilion in October and it looks good. The benches and picnic tables all seem to be in fine shape.

Two mileage markers still need to be installed. Mileage marker 13 came out of the ground with the frost and the final marker next to the Willimantic River bridge.

2.2 Bird Walk:

Nusie reported that the Bird Walk is set for Saturday June 4, 2016 at 8:00 AM. She has advertised it the the Trail Days brochure and will have it posted on the Lebanon Website as well as *Lebanon Life*.

2.3 Talk with Betsy:

Donna met with Betsy shortly after she had taken office to provide her with information about the committee and the trail. She also explained about the partnered efforts of the DEEP, the town and the committee to maintain the trail.

A second short meeting occurred to make sure both she and the Highway department were aware of the materials that the committee had purchased from Hains Materials. Hains is holding these materials for a future delivery date.

Betsy spoke to Jay Tuttle, Highway Foreman and they felt that it was best if these materials stayed undelivered at this time.

2.4 Talk with Jay Tuttle:

Donna met with Jay shortly after he became in charge of the Highway Department. She explained the partnership of the DEEP, the town and committee concerning trail maintenance.

Jay asked for a list of things that the committee wanted the Highway Department to do.

After some discussion, the committee decided to ask the highway department to mow the edges of the trail in July, to place some large boulders in front of the kiosk and at some of the trail entrances and paint the crosswalks. There will be other things that might need to be done occasionally when the need occurs.

2.5 Fornal Property:

Many committee members noted that the property seems to have been cleaned up and many items removed from the area that DEEP will use for a parking lot.

2.6 Ribbon Cutting:

Naomi will check with Laurie Giannotti to see if she will be available for an official opening of the trail on Saturday May 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Once that date is confirmed a list of invited guests will be generated.

2.7 Communications with trail neighbors:

Mary Montany from Kingsley Rd. contacted Donna concerning the property at 86 Kingsley Rd. She informed Donna that the bank had the property in foreclosure and she wanted to know if the committee had funds to purchase this property and make trail parking as well as lessening the curve of the road at that site.. Donna informed her that the committee no longer has any funds and that this would not be anything that we could do. Donna gave Mary Phil Chester's contact information.

Mary did contact Phil. He met with the Highway Department and the Conservation Committee. It was determined that purchasing this property was not feasible.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Reappointment of members:

No members have terms that will expire this year.

3.2 Election of officers:

Mark made motion that the current slate of officers remain in office. Naomi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donna Koenig, Chairman
Mary Withey, Vice-Chairman
Naomi Davidson, Secretary

3.3 April 11, 2016 Meeting:

The meeting for April 11, 2016 will be cancelled and a special meeting for May 9, 2016 will be scheduled for the committee.

4.0 Adjourn

Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM. Mark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Koenig, Chairman